



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Outline

TU120 Integrated Social Sciences

Semester 1/2012 (August 14 – December 1, 2012)

Number of credits:	3 credits
Lecture Time:	Mondays, 09.00 – 12.00 hrs.
Lecture Venue:	Room 202, Faculty of Economics
Instructor:	Rick Levinthal Email: ricklev@hotmail.com Office hours: Before and after class or by appointment.

Course Description:

A study of the origin of social sciences in the modern world, the separation of social science from science, and the acceptance of scientific paradigm for the explanation of social phenomena. The course presents an analysis of significant disciplines, concepts and theories in social science by pointing out their strengths and weaknesses when applied to social problems. The course also includes analysis of current issues with the application to social theories so that each issue is understood from the individual group, macro-social, national and world perspectives.

Course Objective:

There is a body of knowledge that all educated people share. The objective of this course is to introduce you to one area of that shared knowledge; the social sciences. A simple definition of the social sciences is the scientific study of organized groups. This includes, but is surely not limited to: economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, demographics, cultural geography etc. You will experience a basic introduction to the various fields of study and the opportunity to apply that information to your own life circumstances. When you have completed the course you will have joined a community of educated people around the world who share a common knowledge and understanding of the social sciences.

Course Structure:

The course structure and its accompanying textbook emphasize comprehensive coverage of the social sciences by introductory review of historical and current academic thought in each area and its application to societal structures. This information is then supplemented with examples from, and analysis of, different cultures. A strong emphasis is placed on the application of social science theory to enhance student understanding of Thai society and culture.

Learning Activities:

Learning activities include assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, structured debates, group writing exercises, topical video documentaries and group presentations.

Group work, which counts for 20 points, includes the following activities:

1. Civil law negligence legal analysis writing activity. Groups will analyze a fact pattern and apply the elements of negligence to determine commercial liability for negligence. (5 points)
2. Zimbabwe group debate. Groups will represent different countries in a mock UN debate on international relations with Zimbabwe. (5 points)
3. Group presentations on development plans. Groups will prepare and present a development plan for an assigned country. (7 points)
4. The elements of religion. Groups will create and present a model religion based on the shared characteristics of the world's major religions. (3 points)

Required Text and Materials:

Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society; Fourteenth Edition; by Hunt and Colander. Published by Pearson Education Inc.

Handouts will be sent to students prior to class using Moodle or a class email list.

Grading:

Midterm	40 points
Final	40 points
Group Work	20 points
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Total	100 points

Grade Criteria:

A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80 -84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D+	65-69
D	60-64
F	Less than 60

Course Schedule:

Session	Topics	Reading
1	Social science and its methods	Chapter 1
2	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Criminal Law	Handout
3	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Civil Law Group activity 1: Commercial liability analysis.	Handout
4	Society, culture, and cultural change	Chapter 4
5	International Institutions and the search for peace Gandhi and peaceful social/political change	Chapter 21 Handout
6	Geography, demography, ecology, and society David Attenborough Documentary	Chapter 5
7	International political relations Group activity 2: Zimbabwe group debate	Chapter 18 Handout
	Midterm on classes 1-7 October 1st, 9-10:30	
8	The functions and forms of governments	Chapter 13
9	The political economies of developing countries Group activity 3: Presentation on a developing country	Chapter 20
10	Religion and society Group activity 4: The elements of religion	Chapter 9 Handout
11	Group presentations on development plans	
12	Group presentations on development plans	
13	Technology and society	Chapter 6
14	Evolution and sociobiology	Chapter 2
15	Course overview/final exam review	
	Final Exam: December 6, 1:30-4:30	

Important Dates:

Classes Begins	August 14, 2012
Adding and Dropping Courses	August 14 – 28, 2012
Midterm Exam Period	October 1 – 6, 2012 (No Lectures)
Course Withdrawal with “W”	October 17 – 22, 2012
Class Ends	December 1, 2012
